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Air Force Shifts Probe of Officer Accused in Soviet Embassy Visits

From News Services

The hearing into charges against Air Force 2nd Lt. Christopher M. Cooke, is being transferred to his home base, the Air Force announced yesterday.

Cooke is the Titan II missile officer charged with unauthorized contacts with Soviet personnel and with revealing defense information to unauthorized persons.

The military equivalent of a grand jury investigation was begun at Andrews Air Force Base at Cooke's request, the Air Force has said.

After yesterday's session, the third, the Air Force said the hearing would

tentatively reconvene June 30 at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas, where Cooke was stationed before his arrest May 28.

Cooke, 25, of Richmond, Va., had been second-in-command of one of the missile silos controlled from McConnell.

Maj. James D. Johnston, the judge advocate presiding at the hearing, must make a recommendation on the case to McConnell commander Col. Charles Belt, who brought the original charge. Johnston could recommend anything from dismissal of the case to trial by court-martial.